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AMERICAN TO STUDY RICHEST OF MINES

Mexican Wealth Producer Over 400 Years Old.

Washington.—The mines which gave their wealth of gold and silver to the Tottons of Mexico when the Spanish conquistadores discovered them 400 years ago, and which have produced enormously since, will be included in a mineralogical survey on which a Smithsonian geologist left Washington recently.

Dr. W. F. Foshag, assistant curator of mineralogy and petrology in the National museum under the Smithsonian, will make the survey under the auspices of the institution and of the mineralogical department of Harvard university. He will go to Chihuahua, Durango and Coahuila and other important mining regions of northern Mexico, as time permits. In spite of the great age of and great wealth produced by Mexico's mines, no one has ever described the mineralogy or geology of the region. Keen collections are rare. Doctor Foshag will help to remedy this lack.

Richest in World.

The richest silver mines in the world are at Guanajuato, 12 hours by rail from Mexico City. In historical times it has produced nearly a billion dollars' worth of metal. The Comstock lode in Nevada, which was the richest deposit in the United States, produced $340,000,000 in its 20 years of operation.

The great vein shaft upon the Vein Madre vein at Guanajuato is one of the mining wonders of the world. It is 30 feet in diameter and 1,700 feet deep. To the depth of 300 feet it is lined with masonry, but for the rest remainder of the distance the rocks are firm and do not require timbering or masonry. The reason for the great width is to permit eight or more whimsheaves to be worked at once.

Until comparatively recent years these great mines had no machinery. Even the metal was hoisted out of the shafts in cattle skins to be dumped. Production has therefore been slow, which accounts for the long centuries of operation.

Discovered by Convicts.

Two escaped convicts discovered the Santa Eulalia mines in the mountains south of Chihuahua, where Doctor Foshag will go first, in 1706. Not daring to return to civilization, they sent Indian carriers to a priest with the request that he intercede with the government in their behalf. They promised that if allowed to go unmolested they would build the "finest cathedral in the western hemisphere." The bargain was struck and Chihuahua cathedral is the result—admittedly one of the finest specimens of Spanish-American architecture in existence.

Doctor Foshag has an invitation from the governor of Durango to make his survey of that state and has been promised aid in getting collections and information. He will inspect particularly the large gold, silver, copper and iron mines, and possibly the opal and tin mines, studying modes of occurrence of the ores, minerals in the ores, and, if possible, how they were formed.

Offers Timely Safety Hints for Swimmers

Chicago.—Some timely safety suggestions for swimmers are considered in a bulletin issued by the National Safety council, which says:

Don't swim if you have heart trouble.

It is advisable never to go in swimming alone.

If you are tired or overheated don't go in the water.

Wait at least two hours after eating before going in swimming.

Dive only where you have accurate knowledge of the depth of the water.

Swimmers should not become exhausted. If you have overestimated your strength, rest on your back until you feel strong enough to swim ashore.

Do not struggle if caught in a swift current or undertow. The force of the current will bring you to the surface and then you can work in toward shore.

Be sure to learn the prone pressure method of resuscitation. Be capable of applying first aid methods to people who have been apparently drowned.

Gwinnette Signature Sells for $19,000

New York.—A promissory note signed by Button Gwinnett, signer of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia, was sold for $19,000 and a cut signature of the same patriot, detached from a memorial in support of a colonial political candidate, brought $10,500 at the Anderson gallories.

The two specimens were part of the historical library of Dr. George C. F. Williams of Hartford.

Dr. A. S. Rosenbach purchased the document, bearing one of the finest examples of the signature. The price was $2,500 less than the same buyer paid last January for the Gwinnett signature from the Col. James H. Manning collection. The present clear and forceful signature was appended to a note for 14,925 pounds made out by Gwinnett to John Neufville, of "Charles Town," S. C.

Buys Napoleon's Hat

Paris, France.—One of Napoleon's famous cocked hats has been sold at auction for 45,000 francs. The purchaser is the prince of Monaco.

CERAMIC EXPERTS REPORT FINDINGS

Research Will Be Boon to Manufacturers.

Urbana, Ill.—Unaffected by world fame that has come to their university with the discovery of titanium, newest of chemical elements, students and professors engaged in research at the University of Illinois are carrying on with the same painstaking spirit.

Two of them, Prof. Cullen W. Parmelee and Pierce W. Ketchum, graduate assistant, both of the department of ceramic engineering, have announced some interesting findings following investigation into the translucency of porcelains, that are expected to prove of practical value to manufacturers of art and table ware.

The object of their investigation, Professor Parmelee said, was to acquire additional knowledge of the nature of translucency together with a satisfactory means of control and measurement; this knowledge, he said, would be of value in many kinds of ceramic ware.

"While it is true," he added, "that translucency in art and table ware is valuable to the purchaser only from an esthetic standpoint, to the manufacturer it determines the price which can be obtained for his product.

"Translucency is a property of porcelains which lends itself easily to visual measurement. A trained observer can distinguish between two pieces with only small differences in translucency by holding the fingers between a piece and a lamp and noting the clearness of the shadow produced.

"The degree of translucency of any piece must be determined by the character, amount and distribution of the minerals which make up the body. Porcelain consist of quartz particles imbedded in a fused matrix composed mainly of feldspar, together with granular and crystalline mullite.

"Among others, the following conclusions were reached: Translucency is not inversely proportional to the thickness of the specimen; in bodies composed of clay, feldspar and flint, those with the highest feldspar content have the highest translucency and those with the highest clay content the least; increase of burning temperatures gives increase of translucency, and the fine grinding of bodies gives a striking increase in translucency at the temperatures used."

BEST YOUNG ORATOR

Herbert Wenig, seventeen-year-old high school student of Hollywood, Calif., who won first place in the third annual national oratorical contest in the Washington auditorium. Seven students, the pick of 2,000,000 all over the United States, took part in the finals, which were judged by Chief Justice William Howard Taft and four of his associates on the Supreme Court bench. A cup was presented to Wenig by Vice President Dawes.

He Cured Seven Lepers by Freezing Their Germs

Berlin.—A new treatment for leprosy has been devised by Prof. S. Pabdrick of the University of Dorpat, Esthonia, who, in an article in the German Dermatological Journal announces that after many years experimenting he has succeeded in killing the leprosy germ by means of freezing.

Carbonic acid "snow" was applied to diseased tissues with the result that of sixteen patients treated, seven already have been discharged as wholly innocuous to society, the article said. Specialists here regard his discovery as of momentous importance.

ANCIENT ATHENS TO YIELD UP SECRETS

American Scientists Asked to Direct Explorations.

Washington.—American scientists have been invited to direct explorations of the Agora at Athens, probably the richest prize of archaeology in the world today. The plan calls for an excavation into the real estate business to replace the confusion of streets and buildings in some other sector of the city.

Although England, France, Italy, Austria and Germany have had archaeological "ambassadors" in Greece for years, they have all gradually stepped aside for the American scientists.

The Agora was to Athens what the country crossroads general store is to the four-barrel restrums and soap-box philosophers is to Hird Center," says a bulletin from the National Geographic society from its headquarters in Washington, D. C. "The Agora is important because it is the most famous market forum in the world.

"Here on the hillside of Athens, one thinks of the Acropolis. But the Acropolis, in its nature-made 250-foot pedestal of limestone rock, was Athens' sanctuary, its church. A tourist, in the days of Herodotus, if he traveled went to the Acropolis. But an Athenian went to the market place, the Agora, where he could buy flour and olives, Hymettian honey in lieu of sugar, and contracts from Corinth. Or he tarried and listened to homely rock-jawed Socrates standing in an arcade confusing an Athenian by a few cleverly selected questions.

"The Agora today is estimated to have a population larger than it ever supported at the peak of its power. To the 250,000 residents of the Greek capital there can be added quite properly the 125,000 population of Piraeus, port of the city. Athens and Piraeus are less than five miles apart and therefore bear the same relation to each other as Los Angeles and San Pedro harbor. Fortunately modern Athens has not bitten deeply into the sacred ground of old Athens.

A View From the Parthenon.

"There will be much in the newspapers and magazines of the excavations in the Agora during the next fifty years. Imagine that one has climbed to the Acropolis and that one is sitting on the southwest corner of the Parthenon with feet dangling over a mellowed marble foundation block. "Directly south will be Piraeus, on the Gulf of Argina, and in the mind's eye one may exchange the liners and freighters at anchor for Greek galleys. A straight, smooth, macadam road shoots north out of Piraeus, but its destination is seen to be west of the Acropolis rock.

"Directly west of the Parthenon gallery seat, about the distance of two blocks is the Areopagus or Mars hill, second in height to the Acropolis. Crowding up on the north flanks of these three hills, Theseum, Mars and the Acropolis, is modern Athens. The closest quarter is a lodge-pole 'of dwellings and bazars. It is the old Agora, and a market today just as it was in Athen's youth.

"Sprouting among churches, dwellings and stores, one can see a few remnants of ruins that have been unearthed already. By agreement, all the modern stores and houses must go. The archeologists will peel back the new to discover the ancient. Present occupants must take new homes or stores in modern Athens.

"Combining the panorama to the north one sees this modern city occupying the whole cup of the plain ordered by the Acropolis, Mt. Lycabettus and Mt. Hymettus.

An Athenian "General Store."

"Excavation of the site of an American counterpart of the Agora two years from now would not reveal much. Although the Agora is by comparison also a market and a political storm center, it was somewhat different. In its exterior design an Athenian general store, called a 'stoa,' resembled a modern bank; a row of substantial marble pillars marched across the front of it. There was an arcade between the pillars and the store counters themselves. And at the rear of the stores were inclosed warehouses in which goods were locked at night. The front arcade was a social center. If an Athenian had a little time to loaf he didn't take a bath like a Roman or play a round of golf like an American. He found a shady store front and talked politics. Everything was made convenient for loafing. Benches were placed about.

"Free entertainment awaited the idler in the Agora precedes. Acrobats performed. Magicians swallowed swords. One small building had a restaurant where the thirty city councilors were given a free meal every day by the government. But above all there was talk and discussion and speeches. And out of this idler's paradise came the first real freedom school of philosophy the world has ever known, in the Agora. Solon posted his laws which earned the perpetuation of his name in our word 'solon' for lawmaker. Citizens assembled to hear the famous orations against Philip of Macedonia and gave us the word 'philippic.' There Socrates stood still for twelve hours or more, oblivious to the curious throng while he thought out a new principle of philosophy. There also was the headquarters of the Stoics from whom we have the word 'stoic.'

"It was through the Agora that the sharp-tongued cynic, Diogenes, wandered with a lantern, fruitlessly searching for an honest man."

Paris Police Now Use Radio in their Work

Paris.—The Paris police force for some time employed radio as a auxiliary weapon for bringing law breakers into line. Wireless has taken a still more important part in the police system since the new police came into office.

The detective force of the Seine department, wherein the capital is situated, now has made special provision for the newest type of radio apparatus to be installed, and efficient operators are on constant duty. The service is set up in the Palais de Justice, the vast pile of court buildings on the banks of the River Seine which flows through the heart of Paris, comprises a central receiving and transmitting station, four transmitting and relaying stations mounted on specially equipped motor cars and two ambulance stations. The power employed on the transmitting side is about 50 watts.

With just one motor car and only a couple of seconds are required to establish communication between the car and the station. Messages would be sent. A five minute message could be sent. A five minute message could be sent. A five minute message could